

WITTUNGA TRAIL
October and November 2011

The information in the Visitors Pocket Guide complements this self-guided walk.

A



Psoralea pinnata

Blue broom

South Africa

Seed from this South African bush was taken to England for propagation as early as 1690 and it has featured in gardens worldwide ever since. *P. pinnata* has grown so successfully that now it is considered a weed in parts of Australia and New Zealand, so should not be planted in gardens adjacent to bushland.

B



Leucospermum cordifolium

Nodding pincushion

South Africa

Leucospermum species can be distinguished from other Proteaceae plants by the hatched tips on their leaves. Each bloom comprises many tiny flowers, highly specialised for attracting insects and birds for pollination.

C



Aulax umbellata

South Africa

Like *Leucospermum*, *Aulax* plants are dioecious, meaning that have separate male and female plants. This specimen is female. *A. umbellata* grows in fire-prone areas – its seed germination is assisted by heat and smoke.

D



Leucospermum reflexum var. *reflexum*

Rocket pincushion

South Africa

The shape of the flowers gives this plant its common name. In South Africa, ants collect the seeds for food and drag them into their nests. The seeds are safe from fire and then germinate, ensuring preservation of the species.

E



Scaevola albida

Small fruited fan-flower

**Qld, NSW,
Vic, SA**

This lush groundcover plant has masses of small white fan-shaped flowers in late spring and summer, making it ideal for rockeries and a favourite of bees and butterflies. *S. albida* will resprout from its base after fire.

Please do not spread soil-borne diseases by walking on the garden beds.

Look at the friends website: www.fbga.asn.au/Wittunga for photos of the plants on this trail.

F***Westringia eremicola*****Qld, NSW, Vic, SA**

W. eremicola grows naturally in sandy areas of mallee scrub, and is also a very attractive garden plant. It has dainty mauve to white flowers with a spotted throat, grows to around a metre and can be clipped to form a hedge.

G***Pultenaea villifera* var. *glabrescens*****Yellow bush pea****Kangaroo Island (SA)**

There are many Australian native bush peas. This one is endemic to Kangaroo Island i.e. that is the only place in the world where it grows naturally. It can be found in rocky creeks and gorges on the Island's northern coast.

H***Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *spatulata*** **Sticky hop bush****Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, WA**

Dodonaeas are known as hop bushes because early Europeans used them to make beer. Indigenous Australians used dodonaea to treat toothache and cuts. Look for their brilliant red seed capsules and shiny green leaves.

I***Adenanthos macropodiana*****Kangaroo Island (SA)**

This species was thought to be the same as a WA species of *Adenanthos*. In the 1970s botanists found it was a separate species, endemic to Kangaroo Island, so it was renamed *A. macropodiana* from 'Macropus', a genus of kangaroo. *Adenanthos* bushes are often called 'woolly' bushes and are sometimes used as Christmas trees.

J***Dianella longifolia* var. *grandis*****Qld, NSW, Vic, SA**

Dianella species are found in woodlands and grasslands around Adelaide. Look for their dainty lily-like flowers in spring and summer, followed by eye-catching purple berries, which make dianella an excellent garden plant.

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K***Banksia serrata*****Old man banksia****Qld, NSW,
Vic, Tas**

B. serrata was one of the four Banksias collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, botanists on Cook's ship Endeavour exploring Australia's coastline in 1770. It has a cork-like bark which protects the plant from fire.

L***Banksia blechnifolia*****WA**

The prostrate form of this plant, unusual for Banksias, makes it an ideal garden plant. Look out for the upright buds and flowers, and brightly coloured new foliage. *B. blechnifolia* is drought tolerant and prefers sandy soil.

M***Hakea trifurcata*****WA**

Hakea species grow throughout Australia. The prickly leaves of *H. trifurcata* provide a safe habitat for small birds. The plant also has flat seedpod/like leaves, designed to distract birds from its hard, nut-like seed capsules.

N***Eucalyptus preissiana*****Bell fruited mallee****WA**

Eucalypts, like *E. preissiana*, have tough leaves that limit loss of moisture during hot, dry weather, an adaptation that lets them to grow in most Australian environments. Look for the large, bell-shaped, woody gum nuts.

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